

OAK

O Has in English a long sound; as, *ozone, groan, stone, alone, cloak, broke, coal, droll*; or short, *got, knot, shot, prong, long*. It is usually denoted long by a fervile *a* subjoined; as, *mean*, or by *e* at the end of the syllable; as, *bone*: when these vowels are not appended, it is generally short, except before *ll*; as, *droll, scoll*, and even then sometimes short; as, *lell*.

1. **O** is used as an interjection of wishing or exclamation. O that we, who have resisted all the designs of his love, would now try to defeat that of his anger! *Decay of Piety*. O! were he present, that his eyes and hands might see, and urge, the death which he commands. *Dryden*. O is used with no great elegance by *Shakespeare* for a circle or oval.

Can this cockpit hold
The vasty field of France? or may we cram
Within this wooden *O*, the very casks
That did affright the air at Agincourt? *Shakespeare*.
OAF, *n. f.* [This word is variously written; *auff, oft, and oph*; it seems a corruption of *cupb*, a demon or fairy, in German *als*, from which *elf*: and means properly the same with *changeling*; a foolish child left by malevolent *cupbs* or *fairies*, in the place of one more witty, which they steal away.]

1. A changeling; a foolish child left by the fairies. These, when a child happens to be got,
Which after proves an idiot,
When folk perceive it thrive not,
The fault therein to smother:
Some silly doating brainless calf,
That understands things by the half,
Says that the fairy left this *oaf*,
And took away the other. *Drayton, Nymphid.*

2. A dolt; a blockhead; an idiot.
OA'FISH, *adj.* [from *oaf*.] Stupid; dull; doltish.
OA'FISHNESS, *n. f.* [from *oafish*.] Stupidity; dullness.
OAK, *n. f.* [ac, æc, Saxon; which, says *Skinner*, to shew how easy it is to play the fool, under a shew of literature and deep researches, I will, for the diversion of my readers, derive from *ōmōs*, a house; the oak being the best timber for building. *Skinner* seems to have had *Junius* in his thoughts, who on this very word has shewn his usual fondness for Greek etymology, by a derivation more ridiculous than that by which *Skinner* has ridiculed him. *At or oak*, says the grave critic, signified among the Saxons, like *robur* among the Latins, not only an oak but strength, and may be well enough derived, *non incommode deduci potest*, from *ἀλκῆ*, strength; by taking the three first letters and then sinking the *λ*, as is not uncommon.]

The oak-tree hath male flowers, or katkins, which consist of a great number of small slender threads. The embryos, which produced at remote distances from these on the same tree, do afterwards become acorns, which are produced in hard scaly cups: the leaves are sinuated. The species are five. *Miller*.
He return'd with his brows bound with oak. *Shakespeare*.

He lay along
Under an oak, whose antique root peeps out
Upon the brook that brawls along this wood. *Shakespeare*.
No tree beareth so many bastard fruits as the oak: for besides the acorns, it beareth galls, oak apples, oak nuts, which are inflammable, and oak berries, sticking close to the body of the tree without stalk. *Bacon's Nat. History*.

The monarch oak, the patriarch of the trees,
Shoots rising up and spreads by flow degrees:
Three centuries he grows, and three he stays
Supreme in state; and in three more decays. *Dryden*.
An oak growing from a plant to a great tree, and then lopped, is still the same oak. *Locke*.

A light earthy, stony, and sparry matter, inerusted and affixed to oak leaves. *Woodward on Foss*.
In the days of Homer every grove, river, fountain, and

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oak tree, were thought to have their peculiar deities. *Odys.*
Let India boast her plants, nor envy we
The weeping amber and the balmy tree,
While by our oaks the precious loads are born,
And realms commanded which those trees adorn. *Pope*.

OAK, [Evergreen.]
The leaves are, for the most part, indented, or sinuated, and in some the edges of the leaves are prickly, and are evergreen: it hath amentaceous flowers, which are produced at remote distances from the fruit on the same tree: the fruit is an acorn like the common oak. The wood of this tree is accounted very good for many sorts of tools and utensils; and affords the most durable charcoal in the world. *Miller*.
OAKAPPLE, *n. f.* [oak and apple.] A kind of spongy excrescence on the oak.

Another kind of excrescence is an exudation of plants joined with putrefaction, as in *oakapples*, which are found chiefly upon the leaves of oaks. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*

OAKEN, *adj.* [from *oak*.] Made of oak; gathered from oak. No nation doth equal England for oaken timber wherewith to build ships. *Bacon's Advice to Villains*.

By lot from Jove I am the pow'r
Of this fair wood, and live in oaken bow'r. *Milton*.
Clad in white velvet all their troop they led,
With each an oaken chaplet on his head. *Dryden*.
An oaken garland to be worn on festivals, was the recompense of one who had covered a citizen in battle. *Adams*.
He snatched a good tough oaken cudgel, and began to brandish it. *Arbutnot's J. Bull.*

OAKENPIN, *n. f.* An apple.
Oakenpin, so called from its hardness, is a lasting fruit, yields excellent liquor, and is near the nature of the Wellbury apple, though not in form. *Mortimer*.

OAKUM, *n. f.* [A word probably formed by some corruption.] Cords untwisted and reduced to hemp, with which, mingled with pitch, leaks are stopped.

They make their oakum, wherewith they chalk the seams of the ships, of old sear and weather beaten ropes, when they are over spent and grown so rotten as they serve for no other use but to make rotten oakum, which moulders and wastes away with every sea as the ships labour and are tossed. *Rail*.
Some drive old oakum thro' each seam and rift;
Their left hand does the calking-iron guide;
The rattling mallet with the right they lift. *Dryden*.

OAR, *n. f.* [ape, Saxon; perhaps by allusion to the common expression of plowing the water, from the same root with *ear*, to plow, *ara*, Lat.] A long pole with a broad end, by which vessels are driven in the water, the resistance made by water to the oar pushing on the vessel.

Th' oars were silver,
Which to the tune of flutes kept stroke, and made
The water which they beat, to follow faster,
As amorous of their strokes. *Shakespeare, Jul. Cæs.*

So tow'rd a ship the ear-fair'd gallies ply,
Which wanting sea to ride, or wind to fly,
Stands hut to fall reveng'd. *Denham's Poem.*

In shipping such as this, the Irish kern
And untought Indian, on the stream did glide,
E'er sharp-keel'd boats to stem the flood did learn,
Or fin-like oars did spread from either side. *Dryden*.
Its progressive motion may be effected by the help of several oars, which in the outward ends of them shall be like the fins of a fish to contract and dilate. *Woods*.

TO OAR, *v. n.* [from the noun.] To row.
He more undaunted on the ruin ro'ed,
And oar'd with labouring arms along the flood. *Pope*.
TO OAR, *v. a.* To impel by rowing.

His bold head
Bove the contentious waves he kept, and oar'd
Himself with his good arm, in huly strokes. *Shakespeare's Tempest*.
To th' shore.

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OA'RY, *adj.* [from *oar*.] Having the form or use of oars.
His hair transforms to down, his fingers meet,
In skinny films, and shape his oary feet. *Addison*.
The swan with arched neck,
Between her white wings manding, proudly rows
Her state with oary feet. *Milton*.

OAST, *n. f.* A kiln. Not in use.
Empty the bin into a hog-bag, and carry them immediately to the oast or kiln, to be dried. *Mortimer*.

OATCAKE, *n. f.* [oat and cake.] Cake made of the meal of oats.
Take a blue stone they make haver or oatcakes upon, and lay it upon the cross bars of iron. *Peacocks*.

OATEN, *adj.* [from *oat*.] Made of oats; bearing oats.
When shepherds pipe on oaten straws,
And metry larks are ploughmen's clocks. *Shakespeare*.

OATH, *n. f.* [aith, Gothic; as, Saxon.] The distance between the noun *oath*, and the verb *swear*, is very observable, as it may shew that our oldest dialect is formed from different languages. An affirmation, negation, or promise, corroborated by the attestation of the Divine Being.
Read over Julia's heart, thy first best love,
For whose dear sake thou then didst rend thy faith
Into a thousand oaths; and all those oaths
Descended into perjury to love me. *Shakespeare*.
He that strikes the first stroke, I'll run him up to the hilts as I am a soldier.

—An oath of mickle might; and fury shall abate. *Shakespeare*.
We have consultations, which inventions shall be published, which not: and take an oath of secrecy for the concealing of those which we think fit to keep secret. *Bacon*.
Those called to any office of trust, are bound by an oath to the faithful discharge of it: but an oath is an appeal to God, and therefore can have no influence, except upon those who believe that he is. *Swift*.

OA'THABLE, *adj.* [from *oath*.] A word not used. Capable of having an oath administered.

You're not oathable,
Altho' I know you'll swear
Into strong flouders th' immortal gods. *Shakespeare*.
OATHEREAKING, *n. f.* [oath and break.] Perjury; the violation of an oath.

His oathbreaking he mended thus,
By now forswearing that he is forsworn. *Shakespeare, Hen. IV.*

OA'TMALT, *n. f.* [oat and malt.] Malt made of oats.
In Kent they brew with one half oatmalt, and the other half barley malt. *Mortimer's Husband*.

OA'TMEAL, *n. f.* [oat and meal.] Flower made by grinding oats.
Oatmeal and butter, outwardly applied, dry the scab on the head. *Arbutnot on Allments*.

Our neighbours tell me oft, in joking talk,
Of aches, leather, oatmeal, bran, and chalk. *Gay*.

OA'TMEAL, *n. f.* An herb.
OATS, *n. f.* [acen, Saxon.] A grain, which in England is generally given to horses, but in Scotland supports the people.

It is of the grass leaved tribe; the flowers have no petals, and are disposed in a loose panicle: the grain is eatable. The meal makes tolerable good bread. *Miller*.

The oats have eaten the horses.
It is bare mechanism, no otherwise produced than the turning of a wild oatward, by the insinuation of the particles of moisture. *Locke*.

For your lean cattle, fodder them with barley straw first, and the oat straw last. *Mortimer's Husbandry*.

His horse's allowance of oats and beans, was greater than the journey required. *Swift*.

OA'THISTLE, *n. f.* [oat and thistle.] An herb.
OBAMBULATION, *n. f.* [obambulation, from *obambulo*, Latin.] The act of walking about.

TO OBDUCE, *v. a.* [obduco, Latin.] To draw over as a covering.

No animal exhibits its face in the native colour of its skin but man; all others are covered with feathers, hair, or a cortex that is obscured over the cutis. *Hale*.

OBDUCTION, *n. f.* [from *obductio*, obduce, Latin.] The act of covering, or laying a cover.

OBDUCTORY, *n. f.* [from *obductus*.] Inflexible wickedness; impenitence; hardihood of heart.

Thou think'st me as far in the Devil's book, as thou and Falstaff, for obduracy and persistency. *Shakespeare's Hen. IV.*

God may, by a mighty grace, hinder the absolute completion of sin in final obduracy. *South's Sermon*.

OBDRATE, *adj.* [obduratus, Latin.]

1. Hard of heart; inflexibly obstinate in ill; hardened; impenitent.

Oh! let me teach thee for thy father's sake,
That gave thee life, when well he might have slain thee;
Be not obdurate, open thy deaf ears. *Shakespeare*.
If when you make your prayers,

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God should be so obdurate as yourselves, *Shakespeare*.
How would it fare with your departed souls?
Women are soft, mild, pitiful, and flexible;
Thou stern, obdurate, flinty, rough, remorseless. *Shakespeare*.
To convince the proud what signs avail,
Or wonders move th' obdurate to relent;
They harden'd more, by what might more reclaim. *Milton*.

Obdurate as you are, oh! hear at least
My dying prayers, and grant my last request. *Dryden*.

2. Hardened; firm; stubborn.
Sometimes the very custom of evil makes the heart obdurate against whatever instructions to the contrary. *Hooker*.

A pleasing forcery could charm
Pain for a while, or anguish, and excite
Fallacious hopes, or arm th' obdurate breast
With stubborn patience, as with triple steel. *Milton*.

No such thought ever strikes his marble, obdurate heart,
but it presently flies off and rebounds from it. It is impossible for a man to be thorough-paced in ingratitude, till he has shook off all fetters of pity and compassion. *South*.

3. Harsh; rugged.
They joined the most obdurate consonants without one intervening vowel. *Swift*.

OBDRATELY, *adv.* [from *obdurate*.] Stubbornly; inflexibly; impenitently.

OBDRATENESS, *n. f.* [from *obdurate*.] Stubbornness; inflexibility; impenitence.

OBDRATION, *n. f.* [from *obdurate*.] Hardness of heart; stubbornness.

What occasion it had given them to think, to their greater obduration in evil, that through a froward and wanton desire of innovation, we did constrainedly those things, for which conscience was pretended? *Hooker, b. iv.*

OBDRATE, *adj.* [obduratus, Latin.] Hardened; inflexible; impenitent.

This saw his hapless foes, but stood obdur'd,
And to rebellious fight rallied their pow'rs
In fence. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. vi.*

OBE'DIENCE, *n. f.* [obediencia, Fr. obedientia, Latin.] Obedience; submission to authority; compliance with command or prohibition.

If you violently proceed against him, it would shake in pieces the heart of his obedience. *Shakespeare's K. Lear*.

Thy husband
Craves no other tribute at thy hands,
But love, fair looks, and true obedience. *Shakespeare*.
His servants ye are, to whom ye obey, whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness. *Rom. vi. 16.*

It was both a strange commission, and a strange obedience to a commission, for men so furiously allailed, to hold their hands. *Bacon's War with Spain*.

Nor can this be,
But by fulfilling that which thou didst want,
Obedience to the law of God, impos'd
On penalty of death. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. xii.*

OBE'DIENT, *adj.* [obediens, Latin.] Submissive to authority; compliant with command or prohibition; obsequious.

To this end did I write, that I might know the proof of you, whether ye be obedient in all things. *2 Cor. ii. 9.*

To this her mother's plot
She, seemingly obedient, likewise hath
Made promise. *Shakespeare, M. IV. of Wind.*

He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death. *Phil. ii. 8.*

Religion hath a good influence upon the people, to make them obedient to government, and peaceable one towards another. *Tillotson, Sermon. 3.*

The chief his orders gives; th' obedient band,
With due observance, wait the chief's command. *Pope*.

OBE'DIENTIAL, *adj.* [obedientiel, Fr. from obedient.] According to the rule of obedience.

Faith is such as God will accept of, when it affords fiducial reliance on the promises, and obediential submission to the command. *Hammond*.

Faith is then perfect, when it produces in us a fiducial submission to whatever the gospel has revealed, and an obediential submission to the commands. *Wake's Prep. for Death*.

OBE'DIENTLY, *adv.* [from obedient.] With obedience.
We should behave ourselves reverently and obediently towards the Divine Majesty, and justly and charitably towards men. *Tillotson*.

OBE'ISANCE, *n. f.* [obeisance, Fr.] This word is formed by corruption from *obaisance*, an act of reverence. A bow; a courtesy; an act of reverence made by inclination of the body or knee.

Bartholomew my page,
See drest in all suits like a lady;
Then call him Madam, do him all obeisance. *Shakespeare*.
Bathsheba bowed and did obeisance unto the king. *1 K. i. 16.*